

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2012

Principal Learning

Engineering EG101 Paper 01

Introducing the Engineering World

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January 2012
Publications Code DP030340
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EG101_01

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There were clear patterns in achievement, especially when considering candidates around the Level 1 A/A* boundary. Candidates must have a basic knowledge of engineering sectors, job roles, materials, processes (and their possible applications) and environmental factors/energy use, in order to gain a high mark in this unit. Aspects of such knowledge are also fundamental to the Level 1 Principal Learning as a whole, and hence centres/consortia must ensure candidates have assimilated such information very early in the course.

In this series, candidates attaining a grade B were expected to be able to answer, correctly, Q1, Q2, Q4, Q6, Q9, Q11, Q12, Q13, Q16, Q17, Q18, Q23(a), Q24(b), Q25(a), Q25(c), Q26(a), Q26(b), Q28(a) and Q29(a). The questions that candidates around this boundary were expected to be able to answer primarily centred on aspects of Learning Outcomes 1 and 2, and they mainly tested candidates' knowledge of engineering sectors and materials.

Candidates attaining a grade A* were expected to be able to answer, correctly, all of the questions on the paper except Q3, Q19, Q20, Q23(d), Q24(d) and Q30(a). The aforementioned tested more specific knowledge, and they tended to be questions: a) centred on aspects of Learning Outcomes 2 or 3; b) associated with environmental factors/energy use; or c) where at least 2 of the incorrect [multiple choice] answers were strong distracters.

In future series, centres/consortia may again wish to focus on the application, as well as the acquisition, of knowledge, when delivering the unit teaching and learning, in order to assist candidates in attaining a higher grade. The more challenging questions on this paper require a competent understanding of the topic or area being addressed.

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